

Mt. Whitney Overnight / Multi-night ~ Updated November 22, 2010

All dates are available for Permits in 2011. The Calendar of Available Dates to Reserve has been rolled back to indicate what dates were filled and what space was left **after the 2010 lottery** was completed. We hope this will be useful for determining what dates you want to request for the 2011 lottery.

After April 1 the lottery results will be published here. Scroll to the bottom for more information.

May~ Expect winter conditions in May and June. Climbing on snow and ice is serious business. If you are not an experienced winter mountaineer, proficient with the use of winter mountaineering equipment, early spring may not be a good time for you to visit Mt Whitney.						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 17
2 54	3 56	4 55	5 60	6 58	7 28	8 14
9 60	10 56	11 60	12 58	13 54	14 1	15 1
16 58	17 58	18 40	19 58	20 46	21 1	22 0
23 49	24 59	25 41	26 39	27 44	28 1	29 FULL
30 2	31 53					
June ~ Expect below freezing nights, possible winter storms and a snow pack that melts and refreezes as it slowly recedes.						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7	2 13	3 5	4 FULL	5 1
6 1	7 5	8 6	9 FULL	10 FULL	11 FULL	12 1
13 FULL	14 1	15 1	16 FULL	17 1	18 FULL	19 FULL
20 FULL	21 FULL	22 FULL	23 FULL	24 FULL	25 FULL	26 FULL
27 FULL	28 FULL	29 FULL	30 FULL			

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July~ The most requested entry dates are Friday and Saturday in July and August. A smaller group size will help your chances if the date you request is almost full when your application is drawn.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 FULL	2 FULL	3 FULL
4 FULL	5 FULL	6 FULL	7 FULL	8 FULL	9 FULL	10 FULL
11 FULL	12 FULL	13 FULL	14 FULL	15 FULL	16 FULL	17 FULL
18 FULL	19 FULL	20 FULL	21 FULL	22 FULL	23 FULL	24 FULL
25 FULL	26 FULL	27 FULL	28 FULL	29 FULL	30 FULL	31 FULL

August ~ Lottery applications are stirred into random order. When your application is drawn, a reservation will be made if there is still space left on any of the dates you requested. Providing alternate choices for the entry date will improve your chances.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 FULL	2 FULL	3 FULL	4 FULL	5 FULL	6 FULL	7 FULL
8 FULL	9 FULL	10 FULL	11 FULL	12 FULL	13 FULL	14 FULL
15 FULL	16 FULL	17 FULL	18 FULL	19 FULL	20 FULL	21 FULL
22 FULL	23 FULL	24 FULL	25 FULL	26 FULL	27 FULL	28 FULL
29 FULL	30 FULL	31 FULL				

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September ~ Late September and October expect shorter days, cold temperatures and possible winter storms with snow.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 FULL	2 FULL	3 FULL	4 FULL
5 FULL	6 FULL	7 FULL	8 FULL	9 FULL	10 FULL	11 FULL
12 FULL	13 FULL	14 FULL	15 FULL	16 FULL	17 FULL	18 FULL
19 FULL	20 FULL	21 FULL	22 FULL	23 FULL	24 FULL	25 FULL
26 FULL	27 FULL	28 FULL	29 FULL	30 FULL		

October ~ First snowfall of the fall season was on these dates: ~#~ Snow on October 3, 2010 ~#~ Snow on October 13, 2009 ~#~ Snow on October 4, 2008 ~#~ Snow on September 20, 2007 ~#~ Snow on October 3, 2006~#~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 FULL	2 FULL
3 42	4 44	5 37	6 50	7 44	8 FULL	9 FULL
10 53	11 51	12 58	13 60	14 56	15 27	16 2
17 56	18 60	19 60	20 60	21 56	22 45	23 46
24 60	25 60	26 60	27 60	28 60	29 58	30 60
31 60	Nov 1 60					

How can I improve my chances in the lottery?

- The quota is based on the date that you start on the trail, so requesting a variety of entry dates can improve your chances in the lottery.
- You can request a trip date in a block of time. For example, write in “Any date in July for a day hike”
- Consider hiking midweek, there are less requests for Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday.

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When will the trail be clear of snow?

- Expect the switchbacks above Trail Camp to be covered by snow and ice through the end of June or early July. This area can be very hazardous when there is ice or snow.
- Snow may cover the trail again in late September or October.
- During early spring, late fall and winter, trails will be partially or entirely covered with snow or ice.
Winter mountaineering skills, experience and equipment are essential for a safe excursion when ice and snow are on the Mt. Whitney Trail.

When can I make a reservation?

- **Mail** your application, **February 1 to March 15, 2011** for the **2011 Mt. Whitney Lottery**.
- **Mt. Whitney Day Use** and **Mt. Whitney Trail Overnight** trips can be reserved by a lottery that begins in February. After March 15, a freeze on transactions is in effect while visitors are notified of lottery results. If you missed the lottery, or want to request a different date, check this calendar page after April 1 for available dates for 2011. Apply for **lottery leftovers** starting on:
 Wednesday, April 20 for trips in May, June or July
 Wednesday, April 27 for trips in August, September or October
 If space is available, reservations can be made up until 2 days before the trip.
- **All other trips** with quotas can be reserved from 6 months in advance and up until 2 days before the trip if space is available.
- **Non quota trails** do not need reservations, unless the Mt. Whitney exit quota for Trail Crest is used.

Is all the space reserved? Mt. Whitney trail overnight and day use permits are 100% reservable, all the space for July, August and early September may be reserved during the lottery. However, it is common to have openings from cancellations a few days before the trip date.

For all other quota trails, other than Mt Whitney, up to 60% of the quota space can be reserved. At least 40% of the space is saved for visitors who request a permit in person the day before the trip.

Where do I pick up the permit? All Mt. Whitney Wilderness Permits must be picked up at:

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center, phone (760) 876-6200
located at the junction of Highway 395 and SR 136.

Self issue permit forms are available from November 2nd to April 30th.

How do I make a reservation? On-line reservation software is in development and will change how **2012** season reservations are made. **Trips in 2011 will continue making reservations by contacting the Inyo National Forest staff at the Wilderness Permit Office.**

**Inyo National Forest
Wilderness Permit Office
351 Pacu Lane Suite 200
Bishop, CA 93514**

**Wilderness Permit Phone Line (760) 873-2483
Fax Line (760) 873-2484**

Open ~ 8am-4:30pm, Winter season ~ Closed weekends and holidays.
Open ~ 7 days a week, from May 15 to October 15, 8am-4:30pm.

Wilderness permits are required year-round for all visitors entering the Mt Whitney Zone. Reservations can only be made for trips that begin during the quota period, from May 1 through November 1.

Day Use Permit: If the entire trip will be on one calendar date and you will enter the Mt. Whitney Zone, a Day Use permit is required. Day Use includes all routes (access to Mountaineer's Route, East Face/Buttress routes, Mt Russell). No consecutive day use, if trip is more than one calendar date an Overnight permit is required.

Overnight permit (or multi-night): Trips lasting one night or more, that start on the Mt. Whitney trail require an Overnight permit. This includes trips that will end elsewhere (i.e. Pacific Crest and John Muir trails). Day permit can not be used as part of an overnight trip to pass through the area. Overnight use does not

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include all routes. Entry via North Fork of Lone Pine Creek is NOT in lottery (access to Mountaineer's Route, East Face /Buttress, Mt. Russell), can be reserved 6 months in advance.

Group Size: You are limited to the number of people indicated in your group size. The maximum group size is 15 people. Large groups can not exceed 15 people even if on separate permits.

Entry Date: is the day you will begin walking from the trailhead. All of your group must start on the entry date listed on your permit. Your permit will not be valid if you miss your entry date. Do not include extra days you are staying at Whitney Portal before you start on the trail.